

FEDERAL LEGISLATION, DECISIONS, ORDERS, ETC.

Department of the Interior

ALASKA FISHING REGULATIONS: Changes in the regulations for the protection of the commercial fisheries of Alaska during 1947 were issued on January 24 by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug.

These new regulations, recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service, are based upon investigations of fishery biologists, fishery management agents, and testimony presented at public hearings conducted by the Service at eight places in Alaska and in Seattle, Washington.

Fishermen and operators in southeastern Alaska have been concerned for some time over the growing lateness of the pink salmon runs. Because the consensus of the testimony at the hearings was that this problem could be corrected only by allowing a larger proportion of the early-arriving fish to escape to reproduce themselves, the 1947 opening dates for commercial fishing in all districts of southeastern Alaska, except the Stikine District, will be two weeks to a month later than in 1946. Offsetting this to some extent will be a reduction in the weekly closed period from 60 to 36 hours. Provision is made also for extension of the fishing season in definite open periods alternating with closed periods, provided the runs are late and of sufficient volume to warrant fishing beyond the normal closing date. This method of handling possible extensions has been made applicable in the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak, and Prince William Sound areas also.

Other changes in southeastern Alaska include several adjustments in district boundaries. All of Lisianski Inlet and Yakobi Island now are in the Western District; whereas, formerly they were divided between the Icy Strait and Western Districts. All waters south and east of the southern extremity of Kosciusko Island, including Davidson Inlet, Sea Otter Sound, and Heceta Island, have been transferred from the Sumner Strait District to the South Prince of Wales Island District, and the North Arm of Behm Canal has been transferred from the Southern District to the North Clarence Strait District.

Fall fishing throughout southeastern Alaska is restricted to the period from October 15 to November 15--two weeks shorter than in 1946.

Only one new closed area has been created in southeastern Alaska; this is Hole in the Wall on the north coast of Prince of Wales Island.

Trolling from Lituya Bay to Cape Spencer is prohibited prior to July 15 to protect small, under size king salmon that school there at that time of year.

In the Yakutat District, minor changes have been made in Ahrnklin and Situk Inlet gear restrictions to make them uniform.

Changes in southeastern Alaska affecting fisheries other than salmon include

- (1) Closed seasons on herring fishing, except for bait and by gill nets, from May 1 to June 10 and October 16 to November 1;
- (2) A uniform closed season on butter clams throughout the area from April 15 to September 15; and

- (3) Closed season on shrimp fishing from February 1 to September 30 and closure of Duncan Canal to all shrimp fishing.

Elsewhere than southeastern Alaska there has been a minor change in the description of the area closed to salmon fishing in the Bering River-Icy Bay area; a reduction in the limit on razor clams to be taken in the Prince William Sound-Copper River areas from 46,000 to 40,000 cases; an elimination of the limitation on take of razor clams from certain central bars; the extension of the Prince William Sound area quota waters for herring fishing to include also the waters of the Resurrection Bay area; an increase in minimum depth of purse seines in Prince William Sound to $9\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms and permitting of the use of leads 75 fathoms long, and the opening of the season in Prince William Sound 5 days later than in 1946.

In the Cook Inlet area, the opening date for king salmon fishing will be 5 days earlier than in 1946, and all salmon fishing will terminate 4 days earlier to give greater protection to expected small runs of pink salmon. Based on new surveys, the open areas for 4 traps have been redescribed. This will not permit any change in the actual location of these traps. Three new regulations have been added to protect Dungeness crabs in these waters. These new restrictions are identical with those in effect in nearby Prince William Sound.

In the Kodiak area, although relatively small runs of salmon are expected between Cape Trinity and Narrow Point and in the vicinity of Afognak Island, no additional restrictions have been imposed by these regulations. However, if these expectations are confirmed during the season, appropriate curtailment will be made in the field. Otherwise in the Kodiak area, the regulation limiting gill nets to a maximum mesh of $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches has been deleted, pending completion of studies in progress, and restrictions applicable to purse seines off the Karluk Reservation have been modified to correspond with those in effect during the 1946 fishing season.

The Alaska Peninsula area has been divided into 5 districts for administrative purposes; maximum and minimum depths of 175 and 120 meshes, respectively, are prescribed for beach seines; and a catch limitation of 700,000 red salmon is authorized in the Port Moller District.

A good run of red salmon is expected in all districts of Bristol Bay this year and regulations have been relaxed somewhat to allow the maximum economic use of the resource consistent with its conservation. The season in all districts except Ugashik will be from June 23 to July 23 while in the Ugashik it will be June 30 to July 30. The weekly closed period has been reduced from 72 to 60 hours, and the requirement of a maximum mesh of $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches has been deleted.

A new regulation, announced at all hearings, requires that each permit holder install and operate the trap at the site for which he has a permit, or if installed and operated by another, that he bear a substantial part of the cost of such installation and operation. The penalty for violation of this regulation is closure of the trap sites concerned.

Under these new regulations, each trap operator is required to file notice with the Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service prior to February 15, 1947, that he has obtained or applied for a War Department permit. This date of filing is two months earlier than in 1946.



Department of Agriculture

FATS AND OILS: Increased domestic production of fats and oils is in prospect for 1947-48, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced on January 15, but supplies available for consumption during the remainder of the current marketing season (October 1946-September 1947) will continue relatively small. If no major downturn in business activity occurs, prices of most fats and oils, except for seasonal declines in butter, are likely to remain high until mid 1947. However, prices probably will be lower in 1947-48. Beginning next fall, domestic output will be larger, and supplies in major exporting areas are expected to increase in 1947.



Federal Trade Commission

ROSEFISH: A 1944 order directing General Seafoods, Inc., and three of its subsidiaries to cease and desist from advertising and selling rosefish fillets as "perch" was vacated and set aside by the Federal Trade Commission on February 17, 1947, under Order 4627, citing its policy of cooperation with other federal agencies to avoid "possible conflict of effort."

The vacating order, which also dismissed the complaint, recited that the Commission had been advised by the Food and Drug Administration that the terms "ocean perch" and "red perch" have been accepted and approved by that agency as proper labeling for rosefish. "Such approval is, by specific legislation, made a direct responsibility of the Food and Drug Administration," the Commission noted.

Under the cease and desist order, the corporation and its subsidiaries had been prohibited from using the terms "ocean perch," "red perch," or "perch," either alone or in combination with other words, to designate, describe, or refer to rosefish or redfish.

After the cease and desist order was issued in November 1944, the respondents filed a petition to review and set it aside in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (Boston). Subsequently, after being advised in August 1946 that the terms "ocean perch" and "red perch" had the approval of the Food and Drug Administration, the Commission asked that the case be remanded so that its order might be vacated and set aside and the complaint dismissed. This request was granted by the court on February 4, 1947, without objection by the respondents.



Civilian Production Administration

AGAVE FIBERS: Restrictions on the use of agave fibers were tightened on January 16 by the Civilian Production Administration in an amendment to M-84 which limited sisal fiber to the manufacture of rope seven-eighths of an inch in diameter ($2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in circumference) and smaller. At the same time, CPA relaxed end-use limitations on spinnable Manila fiber (abaca) to permit its use in the manufacture of all sizes of rope for any end use.

By this action, CPA expects to save agave fiber for the manufacture of binder twine, baler twine, and rope. The amendment does not prohibit the sale, delivery,

or acceptance of any rope made of agave fiber which was put into process prior to January 16, 1947.



Department of Commerce

EXPORTATION OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS: Certain fish and fish products have been deleted recently from the Positive List of Commodities requiring validated license for export, the Office of International Trade, Department of Commerce, announced in its Current Export Bulletin of January 24. For the convenience of exporters of these commodities, the fish and fish products (Schedule B. Nos. 007800-008698) which remain on the Positive List are listed below:

<u>Schedule B. No.</u>	<u>Commodity</u>
007800	Fish, salted, pickled, or dry-cured: Cod, haddock, hake, pollock, and cusk
	Fish, canned (the following classifications include only canned fish in containers that are hermetically sealed. These classifications include fish, salted, pickled, or dry-cured if packed in hermetically sealed containers. Report fish, salted, pickled, or dry-cured, packed in containers not hermetically sealed, under 007700, 007800, 007901, 007903, and 007998):
008400	Salmon
008500	Sardines (include pilchards)
008603	Herring
008698	Mackerel, bonito, tuna and tuna fish flakes



Food and Drug Administration

CANNED OYSTERS: The Food and Drug Administration, Federal Security Agency, announced on February 3, 1947, that a hearing would be held as soon as practical on proposals to adopt definitions and standards for fill of containers for all canned oysters.

At present, the standard applies specifically to oysters that average less than $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce per oyster. Since some packers are now packing oysters which average more than $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce per oyster, they are now not subject to the regulations on fill. The total weight of oysters per can for the larger sizes has not been uniform. For additional information, interested parties should write direct to the Food and Drug Administration.

